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Cerny: 'Chiefs' have no home in the national anthem

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Posted: Sunday, December 1, 2013 12:00 am

By Tasha Cerny

Dost mine ears deceive me?- Perhaps it was an early on-set of 'finals brain,' but I could have sworn at the last basketball game in Allen Fieldhouse I actually heard the word



“brave” during the national anthem. Bravo, Allen Fieldhouse, bravo.

Before starting this article, I had to do a quick search to make sure I wasn't writing a broken record, because chants and general audience noise in Allen Fieldhouse are hotly debated topics.- Rightly so, I say: as the loudest college basketball arena in the country, the words we sacrifice our voices for at the top of our lungs are important.

But let me be honest: my real motivation behind this article is my father, a U.S. veteran who specially requested I write about this topic when he heard I was in need of ideas.- I, of course, was going to write yet another article spinning in countless references to Disney, or Steven Spielberg or Harry Potter in the hopes of achieving that great humor that somehow always evades me. But this seemed equally as important. Maybe a little - a lot - more important.

Bill Self recently made a request that fans in Allen Fieldhouse respect the national anthem's last word and all that “home of the brave” stands for; in other words, the king of Allen Fieldhouse has spoken, everyone.

But in all seriousness, this is an important topic that often gets kicked to the side because of its lack of locality. When you spend your life living in a relatively peaceful place, the repetition of the national anthem can become second-hand and lose its meaning and significance.- It's easy to forget that the words you sing when you cross your hand over your heart are the substance to an oath of loyalty and respect for a nation that, while flawed, has still given you every privilege and right you have to be standing in this country, enjoying basketball.

Those final words, “home of the brave,” are words that honor every man and woman who has volunteered and sacrificed for this country and the rights that we have.- You may or may not agree with the military actions of this country, but that doesn't change the fact that there are men and women who give their lives so that the rest of us can exercise our freedoms and go about our business. And whether or not you agree with the actions of this country, you should respect those who are willing to put your life before their own.

So like my father and Bill Self himself, I agree that, as fans in Allen Fieldhouse - and





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honestly, fans anywhere - we need to drop the “Chiefs” yell at the end of the national anthem.

Words are powerful, and when we replace “brave” with “Chiefs,” we are doing an injustice to service men and women everywhere.- Let's not forget the subtle racism that such a chant implies, when you actually stop to think about the culturally insensitive branding of the Chiefs, with their red and gold colors, living horse mascot named “Warpaint” and stadium entitled “Arrowhead.” I mean, come on, Kansas City. But that's another article entirely.

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